

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAL-01 /122 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3278
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0879

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, NO
SUBJECT: U.S.-SOVIET MARITIME BOUNDARY

REF: (A) STATE 032343 (B) STATE 13984 (C) MOSCOW 1163 (D)
OSLO 636 (E) 76 STATE 308603 (F) OSLO 0432 (G) STATE 248296
(H) STATE 308603

1. EMBOFF MET FEB 15 WITH MFA LEGAL SECTION DIRECTOR PER TRESSELT,
IN ABSENCE DIRECTOR ELIASSEN WHO IS AWAY, TO FURNISH HIM CONTENTS
OF U.S. NOTE CONTAINED REF (B) AND CONVENTION TREATY ARTICLE I
CONTAINED REF (A) AND PROVIDE INFORMATION ON HANDLING OF NOTE
AND PUBLICATION OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF FISHING CONSERVATION ZONE
(FCZ) LIMITS.

2. TRESSELT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR BEING INFORMED OF U.S.
ACTION ON FCZ WITH USSR. HE REITERATED THAT U.S. ACTION WAS
OF INTEREST TO GON IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH USSR ON FISHERY
ISSUES IN BARENTS SEA AND SAID GON WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF U.S.
WOULD KEEP IT INFORMED OF THE SOVIET REACTION TO U.S. NOTE
AND TO FURTHER PROGRESS U.S.-SOVIET HANDLING OF FISHERIES OR
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BOUNDARY IN BERING STRAIT AREA.

3. TRESSELT NOTED ALSO THAT PUBLISHED U.S.-CANADIAN FISHERY
ZONES OVERLAPPED IN SEVERAL AREAS, CREATING PROBLEM OF
CONFLICTING JURISDICTION LIKE THAT NORWAY WAS EXPERIENCING
WITH USSR IN DISPUTED BOUNDARY AREA OF THE BARENTS SEA.
GON-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLE FOR DEALING WITH QUESTION

ARE OUTLINED REF (F). BECAUSE OF SIMILARITY OF CASES HE SAID HE HOPED GON COULD BE KEPT INFORMED ABOUT WAYS IN WHICH U.S. AND CANADA ARE SEEKING TO HANDLE FISHERIES PROBLEMS IN THEIR DISPUTED AREAS. HE SAID HE HOPED INITIALLY TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER SPECIFICALLY WITH U.S. AUTHORITIES AT LOS EVENSEN GROUP MEETING LATER THIS MONTH.

4. COMMENT: AS DEPT IS AWARE, GON IS ENGAGED IN IMPORTANT, DELICATE TALKS WITH SOVIETS IN THE NORTH ON ISSUES WHICH IMPACT ON GON AND ON U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN INTERESTS AS WELL. THE NORWEGIAN-SOVIET BOUNDARY DISPUTE IS A HOT POLITICAL ISSUE HERE, ESPECIALLY IN AN ELECTION YEAR AND IN THE WAKE OF WORSENING NORWEGIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. GON IS UNDERSTANDABLY INTERESTED IN U.S. VIEWS AND ACTIONS ON THESE ISSUES OR ON ISSUES WHICH COULD HAVE SOME EFFECT ON THEM AND HAS VALUED OUR ON-GOING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GON ON SVALBARD AND OTHER BARENTS SEA QUESTIONS. IN ADDITION, AS OUR BILATERAL TALKS HAVE INDICATED, GON GIVES IMPORTANT WEIGHT TO OUR VIEWS, SUGGESTIONS AND ACTIONS; WE CAN AND DO HAVE IMPACT ON GON'S CONSIDERATION OF THESE ISSUES.

5. BECAUSE OF THIS WE WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE OUR BELIEF THAT USG SHOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP GON FULLY AND CURRENTLY INFORMED ON THE STATUS OF OUR THINKING ABOUT OUR OWN BOUNDARY AND FISHERIES TALKS, PARTICULARLY WITH THE SOVIETS AND CANADIANS. ALTHOUGH THE GON IS AWARE THAT WE VIEW THEIR BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS AS AN "ESSENTIALLY BILATERAL" MATTER (STATE 248296), THEY ARE ALSO AWARE THAT WE HAVE, HERE-TO-FORE, OPPOSED THE SECTOR PRINCIPLE IN GENERAL (STATE 308603 AND OUR AIDE MEMORIRE
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TO GON OF MAY 7, 1976 ON SVALBARD). WE BEILEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO AVOID GIVING IMPRESSION THAT USG IS PREPARING TO CHANGE ITS OPPOSITION TO THE SECTOR LINE PRINCIPLE WITHOUT AT LEAST ALERTING OUR NORWEGIAN ALLIES WELL IN ADVANCE. IN SOME WAYS THE ISSUE HERE IS LESS WHEN AND HOW WE RESOLVE OUR PARTICULAR BOUNDARY WITH THE SOVIETS THAN HOW FRANK AND FORTHCOMING WE ARE ABOUT THESE MATTERS WITH THE NORWEGIANS.

6. AS DEPT HAS NOTED, OUR LATEST NOTE TO THE SOVIETS RAISES SOME NEW QUESTIONS WHICH WILL BE OF INTEREST HERE. FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT IS U.S. ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT OF THE DECISION TO ENFORCE THE FCZ UP TO THE BERING SEA CONVENTION LINE ON OUR LEGAL POSITION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY IN THE BERING SEA? WHAT WILL THE U.S. TELL THE PRESS ABOUT OUR BERING SEA AREA POSITION WHEN OUR FCZ DECISION IS MADE PUBLIC WITHIN NEXT EN DAYS? ADDITIONALLY, WE ARE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY STATEMENT IN LAST LINE OF PARA 2 OF REFTTEL CONCERNING EFFECT OF OUR BERING SEA FCZ POSITION "RE SVALBARD." WE DO NOT SEE HOW BERING SEA FISHERY POSITION AFFECTS SVALBARD OR ITS TREATY AREA DIRECTLY. HOWEVER, SINCE U.S. HAS

INDICATED TO GON OUR OPPOSITION TO THE SECTOR PRINCIPLE, WE SEE
THE STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT GON WILL READ THIS AS AN UNDER-
CUTTING OF THIS OPPOSITION AS IT MIGHT APPLY TO THEIR BOUNDARY
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS IN THE BARENTS SEA (AS SUGGESTED
IN PARA 5 ABOVE). WE WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF THIS
STATEMENT (AND ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON
THIS MATTER.

ANDERS

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